

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MBABAN 03594 071053Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 SS-15 /026 W

-----078053 071055Z /17-R

R 070835Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3414

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MBABANE 3594

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM WZ

SUBJ: SWAZILAND HUMAN RIGHTS EVALUATION

REF: STATE 289851

1. EMBASSY CONSIDERS REFTEL BALANCED PRESENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN SWAZILAND, WITH FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS:

A. SECTION 2(B) IS UNFORTUNATELY NOT TRUE WITH RESPECT TO EMIGRATION; REQUESTS FOR PASSPORTS ARE SOMETIMES DENIED WITHOUT EXPLANATION. EQUALLY DISQUIETING IS THAT SOME LONG-TERM RESIDENTS, INCLUDING SOME BORN IN SWAZILAND, ARE REPORTED TO BE IN DANGER OF LOSING SWAZI CITIZENSHIP. DIMENSIONS OF THIS LATTER PROBLEM ARE NOT KNOWN AND EMBASSY THEREFORE ADVISES AGAINST REFERRING TO IT IN CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION.

B. BECAUSE DETENTION WITHOUT CHARGES IS AN ABUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, SUGGEST LAST SENTENCE OF PARA 4 BE REVISED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:
"IT JUSTIFIES THAT SYSTEM AS BEST SUITED TO SWAZI TRADITION AND, WITH EXCEPTION OF INFREQUENT RECOURSE TO DETENTION WITHOUT CHARGES, HAS MADE A GENUINE ATTEMPT TO ENSURE THAT IT DOES NOT RESULT IN THE ABUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS."

C. LAST SENTENCE OF PARA 5 SUGGESTS THAT ONE OR MORE ORGANI-
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ZATIONS HAVE MADE ON-SITE INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SWAZILAND. EMBASSY NOT AWARE OF SUCH INVESTIGATIONS, ALTHOUGH PERHAPS THIS OCCURRED BEFORE PRESENT OFFICERS ARRIVED AT POST (MID-1976). WE PRIVATELY QUESTION WHETHER OUTSIDE INQUIRY INTO DETENTION SITUATION WOULD BE WELCOME.

2. AS FOR PARA 2 REFTEL, WE HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO CALL GOS'

ATTENTION TO USG'S CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. IN LAST MONTH THIS
HAS INCLUDED CHARGE'S DISCUSSION WITH KING'S LIAISON OFFICER
M.M.P. MNISI (MBABANE 3402) AND DIPLOMATIC NOTE TRANSMITTING
TEST OF HUMAN RIGHTS LEGISLATION (STATE 282352 AND 76 STATE
231122). WE ARRANGED FOR SENIOR CROWN COUNSEL TO PARTICIPATE IN
CU-FUNDED GROUP PROJECT ON LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS (STATE 148747)
AND HAVE REQUESTED GOS TO ALLOW POLICE COMMISSIONER TO PARTICIPATE
IN INDIVIDUALLY-TAILORED CU-FUNDED PROGRAM FOCUSING ON HUMAN
RIGHTS (STATE 276079).
WACHOB

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771283/aaaacssy.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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TAGS: SHUM, WZ
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